



# State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection

Richard J. Codey  
Acting Governor

Salkie  
Nak

Bradley M. Campbell  
Commissioner

302788



JUN 6 2005

6 2005

2005 JUN 10 PM 2:44

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

U.S. EPA, REGION II  
EMERG & REM. RES. DIV

U.S. EPA, REGION II  
2005 JUN 10 PM 4:1  
REMOVAL ACTION BR.  
William McCabe, Acting Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II  
290 Broadway  
New York, New York 10007-1866

Dear Director McCabe:

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) hereby submits the Matteo Iron and Steel Site (Matteo Site) for CERCLA removal action consideration. The following information provides a brief case history and supports the removal request.

The Matteo Site consists of 80 acres in West Deptford Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey. The Site is bordered by a mobile home park to the south, the Horseshoe Branch of Hessian Run to the north, undeveloped wetland property to the west, and Route 130 to the east.

The Matteo Site was primarily used as a scrap yard, but a significant part of the business during the 1960s and 1970s was the recycling of lead and acid batteries. Casings generated from this operation were disposed of in the adjacent wetlands and the Horseshoe Branch of Hessian Run. The casings are visible today protruding from the stream embankment.

The Department recently completed a Remedial Investigation of the Matteo Iron and Steel Site. The results of this investigation show significant public health and environmental concern. Levels of lead in the Horseshoe Branch of the Hessian Run range from non-detect to 35,200 milligrams per kilogram. Bioassay studies show that these levels are toxic to benthic organisms. Additionally, our investigation has found an area of significant PCB contamination at the Matteo Site. Trespassers have been observed at the site; trails throughout the site indicate the likelihood for the local population to come in contact with these contaminants.

The Department is formally requesting that the USEPA evaluate the Matteo Site to determine if conditions at the site qualify the site for an EPA removal action to address the potential for human contact. Additionally, the Department would like to include the existing adverse environmental effects of contamination in the Horseshoe Branch of the Hessian Run in the USEPA action.

A copy the Remedial Investigation has been forwarded to your staff under separate cover. Should your staff require additional information please have them contact Ed Putnam, Assistant Director of the Remedial Response Element at (609) 984-2990.

Sincerely,

  
Leonard J. Romino, Acting Director  
Division of Remediation Support

C: George Zachos, Accelerated Cleanup Manager, EPA  
Richard Salkie, Branch Chief, Response and Prevention Branch, EPA  
Bruce Sprague, Branch Chief, Removal Action Branch, EPA  
Chad Michael Bruner, Director, Gloucester County Department of Health and Institutions  
Ed Putnam, Assistant Director, Remedial Response Element, DEP  
Ronald Corcory, Assistant Director, Discharge Response Element, DEP  
Mark Pedersen, Bureau Chief, BRMINCA, DEP  
Clare Whittaker, Supervisor, BRMINCA, DEP